

Fifth Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference | Sept 9-10, 2014

1 OVERVIEW

The Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference annually brings together researchers and practitioners from around the Pacific Northwest to discuss scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to climate impacts on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the region. It is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas about regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice. The conference also provides a forum for discussing emerging policy and management goals, objectives, and information needs related to regional climate impacts and adaptation. Conference participants include policy- and decision-makers, resource managers, and scientists from academia, public agencies, sovereign tribal nations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

This year's conference, the fifth annual, was held in Seattle on Sept 9-10, 2014 on the University of Washington campus. The conference was the largest to date, drawing 442 participants to UW for the two-day event. Table 1 provides a breakdown of final attendee affiliations. Several members of the media also attended, including reporters writing for NBC News Digital, the Yakima Herald-Republic, the Seattle Times, Science News, High Country News, Outside Magazine, the New York Times, and Scientific American.

Table 1. Breakdown of final conference participants as self-identified upon registration.

Participant Type	Number	%
University / Higher Education	159	36%
Federal Government	85	19%
Tribal Government	42	10%
Private Sector	37	8%
Nonprofit / NGO	32	7%
State Government	29	7%
Local Government	18	4%
Other Organization	14	3%
County Government	11	2%
Media	11	2%
K-12 Education	2	0%
Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization	2	0%
Total	442	100%

The conference format included a mix of plenary presentations, concurrent session presentations and special sessions, and poster presentations from more than 150 presenters in seven topic areas:

- PNW Climate
- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems
- Built Environment
- Shorelines, Oceans, and Marine Ecosystems
- Working Across Boundaries (focusing on interdisciplinary adaptation efforts)
- Human Health

Emphasis was placed on selecting presentations that connect science to management decisions. The conference agenda, as well as PDF copies and/or links to audio file copies of the presentations, are available on the conference website: <http://pnwclimateconference.org/>.¹

Washington Governor Jay Inslee gave the Keynote Address for the conference. The Governor emphasized the importance of climate science and climate scientists in civic discussion and decision making as society moves forward on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Along those lines, Governor Inslee called on scientists at the conference to be more active in disseminating their results to the broader public (specifically via social media) and in public discussion on the issue of climate change. The Governor also called on scientists to talk with elected officials about what climate science shows.

A 16-question survey was sent to attendees two days after the conference to solicit feedback regarding satisfaction with the plenary sessions, concurrent talks, poster sessions and networking. The survey received 156 responses (35% response rate). Survey respondents reported high rates of satisfaction (reported as either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied”) with the plenary sessions (94.8%), concurrent sessions (90.4%), poster session (66.1%), networking opportunities (84%), and general organization (94.9%).

2 USE OF NORTHWEST CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER FUNDING

The Northwest Climate Science Center contributed \$4,999 to the conference as a conference sponsor. The funds were used to cover registration costs for 50 student and tribal registrations. As a result, the support played a key role in increasing student and tribal attendance at the conference.

Student scholarship recipients (n=33) included graduate and undergraduate students from the region’s major universities (University of Washington, Washington State University, Oregon State University, University of Idaho) as well as smaller universities and colleges (Portland State University, Western Washington University, Central Oregon Community College). The scholarships also covered registration for three locally-based international students from the Universidad del Turabo (Puerto Rico), Simon Fraser University (British Columbia), and the University of Melbourne (Australia).

*“Thank you so much for
facilitating this opportunity.
This means so much to me on a
professional and personal level.”*

*-- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
scholarship recipient*

¹ Recordings of the conference presentations are also available on the conference’s YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyfa4eExSMOnvSR_eWOHv6w

Tribal scholarship recipients (n=17) included tribal members and natural resource staff from the Makah Tribe, Upper Skagit Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Lummi Nation.

3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the PNW Climate Science Conference, contact Lara Whitely Binder, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (206-616-5349, lwb123@uw.edu).